

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 21, 2002 with claims 1 through 22. Claims 1 through 22 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kressin et al. (United States Patent Number 5,617,527).

Independent Claims 1, 8, 12 and 22

Independent claims 1, 8, 12, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kressin et al. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Kressin discloses querying a user to information provided by each of the software applications (col. 3, line 62, to col. 4, line 8).

Applicants note that, in the text cited by the Examiner, Kressin teaches that:

the initial step of the invention, 500, is the creation of a Table which provides a correspondence between each command of an application program and a button. The button/command association (table) is *established by the GUI programmer*.

(Col. 3, line 65, to col. 4, line 2; emphasis added.)

Kressin teaches that the application program/button correspondence is incorporated into the program by the GUI programmer. Kressin does *not* disclose or suggest querying a user to specify the properties. Independent claims 1, 8, 12, and 22 require *queryin'g a user to specify properties* of one or more option groups provided by each of said software applications.

Thus, Kressin et al. do not disclose or suggest querying a user to specify properties of one or more option groups provided by each of said software applications, as required by independent claims 1, 8, 12, and 22.

Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-11 and 13-21

Dependent claims 2-7, 9-11 and 13-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kressin et al.

Claims 2-7, 9-11 and 13-21 are dependent on claims 1, 8, 12, and 22, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Kressin et al. because of their dependency from independent claims 1, 8, 12, and 22 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-22, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at
5 the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: March 3, 2005

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